

*Los Angeles County Commission for Women*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Only a few short weeks have elapsed since our last meeting, and those days filled with holiday celebrations, re-connecting with family and friends, and opportunities to reflect on accomplishments of 2013. As we move toward our annual luncheon, I wish to congratulate our commissioners on achievements to date, including; 1) recruitment and appointment of new Commissioners, 2) extensive representation at "sister" commission events, strengthening our collective voice and visibility, 3) streamlining our committee responsibilities, and 4) re-conceptualizing the annual luncheon (policies, practices and focus).

In addition to our Commission work, each of us has endured a hectic 2013 in both professional and personal responsibilities. This pattern is consistent with the many life challenges faced by our sisters throughout the State and County, as well as in our local communities. We are looked to as role models of resilience and tolerance, as we learn and practice strategies for wellness and success. I continue my local connections with women in faith-based communities along with work with women within higher education who represent the future leaders in our neighborhoods, and in our board rooms.

During December, I was able to complete one dozen emergency supply kits which were donated to the West Valley Food Pantry. I have registered for, and will attend, the *Promising Practices Mental Health and Aging* Conference on January 15 at the California Endowment. The next day, I fly to Sacramento for the statewide Policies Summit, followed by the ACCW conference at the end of that same week. It will be a busy January, but one that will allow our commission to be part of significant dialogues on the current status and future of women.

We welcome a 2014 full of hope and promise shared among Commissioners, both new and experienced. We strive for excellence in each of our programs and products, and that requires commitment to learn and connect, making the most of limited resources and collective wisdom. I look forward to our continued outreach to the women of Los Angeles County.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Veda E. Ward, President

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